



2008

Connecticut Law Enforcement Challenge



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NHTSA



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Based on the number of vehicle miles traveled, the rate of motor vehicle fatalities in the United States has been declining over the past decade. In fact, in 2007, the overall number of traffic fatalities fell to 41,059, the lowest number since 1994, and the fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled was 1.37, the lowest fatality rate on record. Additionally, 1,649 fewer people died in crashes in 2007 as compared to 2006. This reduction in fatalities is the largest in terms of both number and percentage since 1992. Injuries in highway crashes last year totaled 2.49 million, the lowest seen since the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration began collecting injury data in 1988. Motorcycle safety, however, continues to be a problem. Motorcycle fatalities now account for 13 percent of all fatalities and, in 2007 alone, the number of motorcycle riders or passengers killed on the nation's roads increased 6.6 percent over the previous year. Seat belt use in 2008 stood at 83 percent, a slight gain from 82 percent use in 2007, and seat belt use for occupants on expressways increased to 90 percent.

While today's traffic fatality rate is a dramatic reduction over the 1975 rate of 3.35 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, the goal of the U.S. DOT and NHTSA is to lower the rate to 1.0 fatalities per 100 million miles traveled by 2011. To that end, NHTSA has joined forces with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and law enforcement officers nationwide, to support traffic law enforcement.

The Connecticut Law Enforcement Challenge is an innovative program that provides an avenue to stimulate traffic law enforcement in any police or sheriff agency. The program targets three major traffic safety priorities: occupant protection, impaired driving, and speeding. The **Click it or Ticket** campaign incorporates high visibility enforcement efforts. Experience has shown that such programs can substantially increase safety belt use rates in a very short period of time and heighten the public's interest in its support of positive, prevention-oriented law enforcement efforts. For the past two years over 55 percent of persons killed in vehicle fatalities were not wearing a seat belt.

Federal regulations require the use of safety belts by commercial motor vehicle drivers. A national public-private partnership — the **Seat Belt Partnership**, which combats low seat belt use among the nation's commercial motor vehicle drivers — has been underway for four years and the nation has made

major strides in this area. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) is a member of this Seat Belt Partnership and is working to improve safety belt use among drivers of large trucks. For more information regarding the Seat Belt Partnership, see www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safetybelt.

In the area of impaired driving enforcement, the Connecticut Law Enforcement Challenge will recognize outstanding efforts that create general deterrence by conducting high visibility impaired driving enforcement, both during brief periods of heightened enforcement and on a sustained basis throughout the year. Heightened enforcement was achieved in 2006 during the National Crackdown on impaired driving during the campaign, which was conducted around the Labor Day holiday.

During 2007, the federal campaign **Drunk Driving: Over the Limit. Under Arrest.** was used to support the Labor Day crackdown. The campaign promoted high levels of law enforcement participation and was supported by millions of dollars of paid advertising. Sustained impaired driving enforcement throughout the year, which is highly visible and well publicized, enhances general efforts by making it clear to the public that law enforcement is serious about enforcing impaired driving laws. Through



the efforts of high visibility enforcement and better training of prosecutors, law enforcement officers and DUI courts, positive strides are being made in reducing alcohol-related fatalities.

Finally, the Connecticut Law Enforcement Challenge recognizes agencies that have innovative speed management programs. Speeding has consistently been estimated to be a contributing factor in one-third of all fatal crashes. Innovative and effective speed enforcement combined with a speed management plan can have a significant impact in reducing speed related fatalities.

America's law enforcement community must set ambitious goals for traffic safety enforcement and education. A motor vehicle fatality occurs every 12 minutes on America's highways. Law enforcement officers have unprecedented opportunities to prevent those fatalities, to reduce the number of serious crash injuries, and to positively impact spiraling emergency services and health care costs. The Law Enforcement Challenge allows law enforcement agencies to set comprehensive goals, to strive to reach new heights, to share their experiences with others, and to be recognized for their traffic safety accomplishments; in short, to make significant differences in the communities their officers serve professionally. The competition has no losers — only winners — for saving lives and reducing injuries are the true reward of their efforts.

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NHTSA

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



Award Categories

Municipal Agencies

Connecticut & National Challenge

Categories by No. of Sworn Officers:



- | | |
|----------|-------------------|
| 1. 1-8 | 7. 66-100 |
| 2. 9-16 | 8. 101-200 |
| 3. 17-25 | 9. 201-500 |
| 4. 26-35 | 10. 501-1,250 |
| 5. 36-45 | 11. 1,251 or more |
| 6. 46-65 | |



Special Categories

1. **Specialized Law Enforcement** — College/University Police, Tribal, etc.
2. **Community Traffic Safety Team of the Year**
3. **Associations & Organizations** — Hospitals, Health Departments, Multi-Jurisdictional Programs, Safety Organizations, etc. (Application must highlight how organization or effort supported law enforcement and traffic safety.)
4. **Connecticut State Police Troop Award** — Presented to the single outstanding troop that conducts proactive, innovative, and effective traffic safety activities. (No statistical data from Resident Trooper towns will be allowed if those towns have entered the municipal category.)

IACP National Law Enforcement Challenge

All state entries will be sent automatically to the IACP for consideration in the National Law Enforcement Challenge Program.

National Challenge Championship Class

First place winners from the 2007 National Challenge, regardless of agency size, will compete in this class.

Submit
application by

April 17, 2009

to:

**Connecticut DOT
Transportation Safety Section
ATTN: Mr. Edmund Hedge
2800 Berlin Turnpike
P.O. Box 317546
Newington, CT
06131-7546**

Special Awards Categories

Connecticut & National Challenge

Occupant Protection Award

Applicants will be judged on their notable efforts to promote and enforce occupant protection laws.

Impaired Driving Award

Applicants will be judged on their notable efforts to detect and apprehend impaired drivers and address unsafe driving through enforcement, officer training and public information and education.

Speed Awareness Award

Applicants will be judged on their notable efforts to address the problem of speeding.

Child Passenger Safety Award

Applicants will be judged on their efforts to promote and enforce child passenger safety in their communities.

Underage Alcohol Prevention Award

Agencies will be judged on their notable efforts to address the problems of underage drinking and of drinking and driving by those under the legal drinking age.

Commercial Vehicle Safety Award

Agencies will be judged on their notable efforts to promote and enforce occupant protections laws and their overall comprehensive education and enforcement programs for commercial vehicles. (NOTE: If you wish to apply for this award, please also fill out the additional application on the next page.)

National Challenge Only

First Time Entry

The "Rookie of the Year" Award will be presented to an agency that is entering the Challenge for the very first time. This award is open to all first-time entries, regardless of category.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Award

Agencies will be judged on their efforts to promote and enforce bicycle and/or pedestrian safety in their communities.

Motorcycle Safety Award

Applicants will be judged on their efforts to promote and enforce motorcycle safety in their community.

Technology Award

Applicants will be judged on their efforts to enhance safety, increase mobility, and sustain the environment using innovative technology with a special emphasis on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). *Examples: traffic management/command and control; communications; navigation and surveillance (CNS) technologies; crash data collection technology; video cameras; speed indicator trailers; total station crash investigation; etc.*

Clayton J. Hall Memorial Award

This special award, honoring the memory of Clayton J. Hall, a highway safety leader who helped develop the Law Enforcement Challenge concept and many other innovative safety programs, is presented annually to the law enforcement agency that submits the most comprehensive traffic safety program. All agencies entered in the 2008 National Law Enforcement Challenge will be considered for this award, provided that they have not won this award in the last five (5) years.

Special Awards

In addition to the first, second, and third place Challenge awards an agency can receive, there are several other "special awards" for which they may compete.

If your agency wishes to do so, your application must include a separate tab or section for each special award for which you wish to be considered.

To ensure that your agency is considered for one of these awards, please follow closely the guidelines for applying for special awards in the "How To" booklet available online at: www.cpcanet.org.

Special Awards

Commercial Vehicle Safety Award Application

Number of North American Standard certified CMV Officers/Inspectors: ____

I. Public Information/Education

Provide a written narrative of all of the CMV public information & education efforts conducted during 2008 to address CMV occupant protection, speed, etc. Also, include all information on your total CMV traffic safety programs and initiatives during 2008.

____ Yes ____ No Did you conduct CMV traffic safety educational/enforcement mobilizations/campaigns? *(High crash/CMV traffic corridors, CMV strikeforce activities, International Roadcheck, Operation Air Brake/Brake Safety Awareness Week)*

II. CMV Enforcement Activity

Provide a brief narrative explaining what your agency accomplished. (During any three months of 2008.)

____ # of roadside inspections ____ # of motorcoach/bus inspections
____ # of CMV safety belt citations ____ # of CMV safety belt warnings
____ # of arrests for impaired driving (CMV only)
____ # of special CMV enforcement efforts in 2008; and,
How many were checkpoints? ____ How many were saturation patrols? ____

III. Effectiveness of Efforts

Provide a narrative of your effectiveness, i.e., "How did the CMV programs impact your overall effectiveness?"

CMV Safety Belt Usage Rate — Beginning rate: ____% Mo/Yr: ____/____
End rate: ____% Mo/Yr: ____/____ *(At least 6 months apart)*

Percentage of 2008 CMV Fatal and Injury Crashes that were,

a) Speed-related: ____%; b) Alcohol-related: ____%

Total CMV crashes for 2006: ____; 2007: ____; 2008: ____

Total CMV fatalities for 2006: ____; 2007: ____; 2008: ____

Challenge Scoring Guide

Policy & Guidelines (20 possible points)

Applicants **MUST** provide a copy of their policies and guidelines for safety belt use within the agency as well as enforcement policies and guidelines for safety belt, child passenger safety restraints, impaired driving, and speed. If your agency has no policy for the requested target areas, provide a brief statement saying so — do not make the judges search for one. Also, do not say that you have a policy or enforcement guidelines and then neglect to include them.

Training (20 possible points)

Outline the training conducted during the year in each of the following areas (5 possible points each):

- **occupant protection** (usage and enforcement);
- **impaired driving** (detection and apprehension);
- **speed enforcement** (public information, detection and apprehension); and,
- **other overall comprehensive traffic safety training** (MCS, pedestrian, bike safety, etc.).

Provide a brief narrative about the training your agency conducted/received during the year. Include the percentage of officers trained in each category.

Incentives & Recognition (15 possible points)

Additional points are awarded for agencies that reward officers for a job well done and citizens that practice safe driving. Rewards and incentives are important elements in letting people know that traffic safety is a priority in the community and the agency.

Up to 5 points will be awarded in each of the following areas: participation in **Saved by the Belt programs** (state or local program or IACP Saved By the Belt); recognition of officers for **DWI enforcement**; and recognition of officers for **speed enforcement**.

Public Information & Education (40 possible points)

The points awarded in this section are based on your efforts to promote the issues of **occupant protection** (10 possible points), **impaired driving** (10 possible points), **speed enforcement** (10 possible points), and **other public information and education** (10 possible points). Show your creativity in promoting your programs. Provide a narrative of your public information and education activities and of your efforts to publicize highly visible enforcement during the year. Tell us what you have done and how you got the message out to the public.

Complete “How-To” Guide

- For an expanded explanation of the judging criteria and additional guidance on assembling your Law Enforcement Challenge application, download the complete “How-To” Guide from the the CPCA web site — www.cpcanet.org.

Enforcement Activity (40 possible points)

Provide the number of citations/warnings issued by your department for:

- **safety belt/child safety seats** (10 possible points);
- **impaired driving** (10 possible points);
- **speeding violations** (10 possible points); and,
- **special enforcement efforts** (10 possible points).

The above should reflect any of the best three (3) month periods during the year — they do not have to be consecutive months nor the same three months of the target programs.

How Effective Were You? (40 possible points)

The secret to this section is very simple: do the research and find the numbers. This is not only important for completing your challenge application, but the data also will help you to evaluate and build your entire traffic safety program. This section can be used as a barometer of how well your agency is doing.

At a minimum, address your traffic program’s effectiveness in the following areas: change in safety belt use over a 6-month period, change in the number of speed- and alcohol-related fatalities and injury crashes from previous years, and change in the total number of crashes from previous years. Your effectiveness documentation should also include results of some of your enforcement programs.

Quality of Submission (15 possible points)

How well did you organize your application? (Your submission should follow the order of the application.) Is all of the information clearly provided and is it creatively presented? The judges will look at how much effort you expended in preparing your application.

Challenge Application Checklist

Use this checklist to ensure you report what your agency was involved in during the year. This is a partial list of some of the required materials. For more detailed instructions on how to complete your Challenge application, download the "How-To" Guide from the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association website — www.cpcanet.org.

Have you included... ?

- _____ Written policy requiring officer safety belt use
- _____ Written guidelines for enforcing belt laws
- _____ Written guidelines for speed enforcement
- _____ Written guidelines for impaired driving enforcement
- _____ Training Information – Updates or new training during the past year: Roll-call, in-service, seminars, conferences, etc.

NOTE!

- Please keep a copy of your application. Applications become the property of the IACP and will not be returned to submitting agencies and/or other requestors.

Did you include... ?

- _____ An outline of your public information campaigns and programs
- _____ Nomination of officers for any traffic safety awards either locally or in the state or nationally
- _____ Departmental awards
- _____ Memberships in any safety groups or transportation safety commissions where your department played an active role
- _____ Participated in any child passenger safety training and programs
- _____ Nomination for Saved by the Belt/Air Bag Awards
- _____ Any public/private partnerships in traffic safety activities
- _____ Multi-jurisdictional projects such as checkpoints
- _____ Use of speed trailers, numbers of times used and how they were deployed and what was the effect
- _____ Presentations to groups – PTA, Scouts, employers, military, etc.
- _____ Media coverage highlighting your highway safety activities
- _____ Number of times your message or activities appeared or were mentioned on TV or radio
- _____ Show signs and billboards produced and/or used by your agency
- _____ Safety belt Challenges and or surveys for your jurisdiction
- _____ Pictures of handouts and printed materials
- _____ Summary of press releases and /or media coverage

Did you provide... ?

- _____ Completed Challenge Application
- _____ Total number of sworn personnel, regardless of rank
- _____ Enforcement data
- _____ Citations for three months for safety belts, DUI, & speed
- _____ Seat belt surveys (pre- & post-) in your community
- _____ Percentage (%) of fatalities / injuries that were alcohol & speed related
- _____ Special award information tab or section you need to include for judging the special awards for which you wish to be considered (Rear of book/presentation)

For more information about the Challenge program, or for assistance with your application, contact:

**Edmund Hedge
Connecticut Law Enforcement
Challenge Coordinator**

Phone: (860) 594-2386

Edmund.Hedge@po.state.ct.us

2008 APPLICATION

Check One:

- ☐ Municipal Police
(City, County, or
Town)
- ☐ Sheriff
- ☐ State Police/
Highway Patrol
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Military Police
- ☐ University
- ☐ Private
- ☐ Tribal
- ☐ Special
Enforcement
Agency (DMV, etc.)
- ☐ State Association
- ☐ International
- ☐ Multi-Jurisdictional

Special Award Consideration

Check All That Apply:

- ☐ First-Time Entry
- ☐ Occupant
Protection
- ☐ Impaired Driving
- ☐ Speed Awareness
- ☐ Child Passenger
Safety
- ☐ Underage Alcohol
Prevention
- ☐ Technology Award
- ☐ Bicycle/Pedestrian
- ☐ Commercial Vehicle
- ☐ Motorcycle Safety

Agency Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Agency Head: _____ Fax: (____) _____ - _____

Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____ Total # of Sworn Personnel: _____

Contact Name/Rank: _____ Total # of Patrol Officers: _____

I. Policy and Guidelines (Agency MUST provide an actual copy of the policy or guidelines.)

This agency has:

- ☐ Yes ☐ No a written policy requiring officer safety belt use.
- ☐ Yes ☐ No a written policy/guidelines making enforcement of safety belt and child passenger safety restraint laws a priority.
- ☐ Yes ☐ No a written policy/guidelines making speed enforcement a priority.
- ☐ Yes ☐ No a written policy/guidelines making impaired driving enforcement a priority.

II. Training of Officers (Agency MUST provide brief narrative or outline of activities.)

- _____(#) _____% of patrol officers, who received in 2008, updates or new training in occupant protection.
- _____(#) _____% of patrol officers, who received in 2008, updates or new training in impaired driving detection and apprehension.
- _____(#) _____% of speed measurement officers who were recertified in 2008 through a NHSTA recommended speed measurement recertification course.
- _____(#) _____% of sworn officers, who received any traffic safety related training in the past.
- Include: occupant protection, impaired driving, speeding, aggressive driving, bike/pedestrian, MCS, etc...*

III. Incentives and Recognition (Provide narrative or program details.)

This agency participates in:

- ☐ Yes ☐ No Saved by the Belt/Air Bag (IACP officer and/or citizen award programs).
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Officer recognition programs for impaired driving detection and apprehension.
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Officer recognition programs for speed detection and apprehension.

IV. Public Information and Education

(Provide a written narrative of all the public information & education efforts conducted during 2008 to address occupant protection, speed and DUI. Also include all information on your total traffic safety programs and initiatives during 2008.)

- ☐ Yes ☐ No Traffic safety educational/enforcement mobilizations/campaigns
(Operation ABC, Click It or Ticket, Safe and Sober, Smooth Operator, or
Drunk Driving: Over the Limit. Under Arrest./Checkpoint Strikeforce).

V. Enforcement Activity (During any three months of 2008. Provide brief narrative explaining what your agency accomplished.)

- _____ # of citations, _____ # of warnings for safety belts
- _____ # of citations, _____ # of warnings for child passenger safety violations
- _____ # of citations, _____ # of warnings for speeding
- _____ # of arrests for impaired driving, _____ # of special enforcement efforts in 2008
- How many were checkpoints? _____ How many were saturation patrols? _____

VI. Effectiveness of Efforts (Provide a narrative of your effectiveness, i.e. "How did the programs impact your overall effectiveness?")

- Safety belt usage rate — Beginning rate: _____% Mo/Yr: _____/_____
- End rate: _____% Mo/Yr: _____/_____ (At least 6 months apart)
- Percentage of 2008 fatal and injury crashes related to: Speed — _____% ; Alcohol — _____%
- Total crashes for 2006: _____ 2007: _____ 2008: _____